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A Survey Of The Vocational Status Of One Hundred Thirty- Seven Graduates Of Kemp High School, Bryan, Texas

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A SURVEY OF THE VOCATIONAL STATUS OF ONE
HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES OF
KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEX-
AS.

-By-

Bryan Henry Barrows Jr.

and

Gladys Marie Walton

An Undergraduate Thesis Submitted
to the Faculty

of the

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Re-
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of

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in

Education

July, 1936

DEDICATION

To

"My Mother"

July, 1936

**

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

The writer is greatly indebted to Mr. J. B. Cade, of Prairie View State College, for his worthy assistance and guidance in the planning of this material for this thesis.

The writer also wishes to express his indebtedness and appreciation to Mr. R. C. Neal, Principal of Kemp High School, Bryan, Texas, for his aid in the compiling of this material.

BHB.

A SURVEY OF THE VOCATIONAL STATUS OF ONE HUNDRED
THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH
SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEXAS.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE:

Each year the different high schools of Texas have been graduating large numbers of students and there has not been any check up or investigation made to find out actually, how many students go to college; how many do not, and the reasons that keep them from going.

The high schools have no information on how many of the students find employment, and if the subjects they have taken in school have been of any material value to them.

This study attempts the following, pertaining to the students graduating from Kemp High School, Bryan, Texas:

1. To study the student as he actually fits into society.

2. To find out the number of students who worked during their school days and the wages they received.
3. To find out why many of the graduates did not attend college.
4. To find out if the school aided them in obtaining employment.
5. To find out whether the high school subjects have aided or been of any benefit to the graduates in jobs held.

SCOPE:

Owing to the conditions under which the investigation was conducted, it was necessary to observe certain limitations:

1. The study involves one-hundred thirty-seven graduates of Kemp High School, Bryan, Texas.
2. The study was confined to those students graduating from nineteen hundred thirty-two, through nineteen hundred thirty-five, who either did not attend college, or who at-

tended for a short while and dropped out.

METHOD:

To get data pertaining to high school graduates, special questions were framed and circulated by means of a house-to-house canvass.

First of all a list of the graduates from nineteen hundred thirty-two through nineteen hundred thirty-five was secured from the principal of Kemp High School.

Then Miss Gladys Walton and I divided the names equally; mapped our routes, and began interviews.

We saw to it that each zone that was supposed to have been covered in one day was covered in one day, so that we could be back to the campus at the designated time.

A copy of the questionnaire used in our interviews will be found on the following page:-

QUESTIONNAIRE

VOCATIONAL STATUS OF GRADUATES
OF TEXAS NEGRO HIGH SCHOOLS

1. Name _____ 2. Sex _____
3. Present address _____
4. Age _____ 5. Born in city or Rural? _____
6. Number of Sisters _____ 7. Number of Brothers _____
8. Father living? _____ Mother? _____ Father and mother
separated? _____
9. Parents or Guardians rural or urban people? _____
10. Did parents or guardians own home when you graduated? _____
11. Did they own any other property? _____ What kind? _____
12. Are you married? _____ If so, how many children? _____
13. How long have you been married? _____
14. Give name and location of high school. _____
_____ Give date of graduation. _____
15. What kind of work did you do in high school? _____
16. Was the work regular or part-time? _____ Seasonal
or for the entire year? _____
17. What was your monthly wage? _____
18. How many months per year did you work? _____
19. Have you attended college? _____ If so, why did you

stop? _____ If not, why? _____

20. Do you still desire to extend your education? _____

21. What is your present occupation? _____

22. What is your present monthly wage? _____

23. Is your present position regular or part-time? _____

Seasonal or for the entire year? _____

24. How long have you held your present position? _____

25. Give names, dates, and length of time of other positions held since graduation.

Date	Position or Positions	Number of months held
1932	_____	_____
1933	_____	_____
1934	_____	_____
1935	_____	_____

26. Give reason or reasons for changing jobs.

Date	Reason for changing	Date	Reason for changing
1932	_____	1933	_____
	_____		_____
1934	_____	1935	_____
	_____		_____

27. How long after graduation was it before you secured employment? _____

28. List job or jobs which school aided you in securing since graduation. _____

29. List school courses taken by you in high school which have been of value in jobs held. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

30. Is your wage affected by experience? _____
Is your salary raised because of service? _____

31. Does the salary of your present position depend upon "piece work" or do you get a flat wage? _____

32. In which of the following community activities are you a participant?

Name	Positions held by you
The Church _____	_____
The Lodge _____	_____
Social Clubs _____	_____
Others _____	_____

REMARKS

CHAPTER II.

FAMILY DATA OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEXAS

Of the graduates interviewed there were sixty-two males and seventy-five females.

The number born in the urban districts was seventy-six, while the number born in the rural districts was only sixty-one.

The greatest number of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates of Kemp High School were of ages that ranged between twenty and twenty-two. The youngest graduate was seventeen and the oldest was twenty-seven.

Facts of the age level of the graduates are very accurately shown by TABLE I. *

* (please consult the next page)

TABLE I.

Age	No. of Graduates
27.....	2
26.....	2
25.....	4
24.....	7
23.....	3
22.....	11
21.....	19
20.....	21
19.....	11
18.....	26
17.....	6
<hr/>	
Total	137

In order to get a true and complete account of the graduates' conditions, much information concerning the parents welfare was secured. Sixty graduates stated that their parents were rural people, and seventy-five stated that their parents were urban.

It was really pathetic to discover that such

few parents owned their homes. Only sixteen out of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates' parents own their homes.

Ten graduates stated that their parents own some other property.

TABLE NO. II. will show the kind of property owned other than homes.

TABLE II.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY PARENTS OF
THE 137 GRADUATES

Kind of Property	No. of Graduates
Lots	5
Stores	2
Filling Stations	3
Homes	16
Nothing	111
Total	<u>137</u>

Seventy graduates were fortunate enough to have both father and mother living, while eight graduates

had both parents dead. Thirteen had only the father living, while thirty-six had only the mother living.

The marital status of the parents shows that sixty-nine graduates' parents were separated, while sixty-eight were not separated.

It had generally been the censure of opinion that because of large families where there were many brothers and sisters, that the parents were financially unable but my investigation proves this to be false for the larger number of the parents do not have large numbers of children. There is only one graduate with five sisters and only two graduates that have seven brothers.

In consulting TABLE III and IV, one will find the number of sisters and brothers with respect to their distribution.

TABLE III.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING TO
THE NUMBER OF SISTERS

Number of Sisters	No. of Graduates with
0	46
1	26

TABLE III. (continued)

Number of Sisters	No. of Graduates with
2	36
3	18
4	5
5	6
<hr/>	
Total	137

TABLE IV.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING TO
THE NUMBER OF BROTHERS

Number of Brothers	No. of Graduates with
0	54
1	35
2	23
3	11
4	5
5	2
6	1
7	2
<hr/>	
Total	137

Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates ninety-one were not married; forty-six were married. Thirty one of the forty-six married did not have children. Eleven had one child two had two, and two had three children.

Four of the forty-six married had been married under six months, while one had been married four years.

Table V will show the marital status of the Graduates.

TABLE V.

Length of Time Married	No. of Graduates
Not married	91
Under six months	4
1 year	14
2 years	16
3 years	11
4 years	1
<hr/>	
Total	137

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX
GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN,
TEXAS

Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates interviewed thirty finished in nineteen hundred thirty-two; thirty-three finished in nineteen hundred thirty-three; thirty-one finished in nineteen hundred thirty-four, and forty-three finished in nineteen hundred thirty-five.

There were five different reasons given by some of the graduates for not attending college. Of the five different reasons, the "lack of finance" appeared the largest number of times; it occurred eighty-eight times. It is also interesting to note that of the thirty-eight that did not go, two stated that they did not care to go.

TABLE VI. lists the reasons that were given.

TABLE VI.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING TO REASONS
GIVEN FOR NOT ATTENDING COLLEGE

Reasons	No. Giving
Did not care to go	2

TABLE VI. (continued)

Reasons	No. Giving
Ill health	4
Preferred Marriage	5
Lack of finance	88
	<hr/>
Total	99

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF ONE HUNDRED
THIRTY-SIX GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH
SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEXAS

The information that I have gathered concerning the type of jobs held by students prior to graduation will reveal at least two things; it tells how many students worked while going to school and the types of jobs they held. It was revealed that sixty-nine of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates interviewed had worked prior to graduation.

TABLE VII.

DISTRIBUTION OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRAD-
UATES ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONS HELD BE-
FORE GRADUATION

Occupations Held Before Graduation	No.
------------------------------------	-----

TABLE VII. (continued)

Not employed	68
Maids	19
Yard boys.....	14
Bell hops	12
Janitors	6
Clerks	6
Chefs	3
Delivery boys	2
Dairy boys	2
News boys	2
Hair dressers	2
Painters	1

137

In examining the wages of the sixty-nine graduates who worked prior to graduation, I have found that more earned from ten to fourteen dollars a month than any other amount, the number of students receiving such amount was thirty-nine, which represents in number, over half the entire number that was working.

TABLE VIII. will show the extent of the wages.

TABLE VIII.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING
TO MONTHLY WAGE

Range of Wage	No. of workers
1 to 4	1
5 to 9	8
10 to 14	39
15 to 19	16
20 to 24	6
25 to 29	1
30 to 34	1
35 to 39	2

When checking up on the time that elapsed between graduation and employment, figures show me why many do not go because of insufficient funds.

Forty-six were not employed. Seven were already employed before they finished, and seventy-one were not able to get employment until six months after graduation, and it was between one and four years before eleven

could find employment.

TABLE No. IX. shows the length of time that elapsed before graduates secured work.

TABLE IX

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL
ACCORDING TO THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT EX-
PIRED BEFORE EMPLOYMENT WAS SECURED

Length of Time	No. of Graduates
Under six months	2
Over six months	71
One year	8
Over 1 year	1
2 years	0
Three years	1
Four years	1
Already working	7
Never worked	46

Total 137

Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates interviewed, one hundred and two are employed at present, while thirty-five are unemployed. The majority of the

graduates are engaged in common labor, such as maid work, janitor work, and yard work.

TABLE X. will show the types of jobs engaged in by one hundred and two graduates at the present.

TABLE X.

DISTRIBUTION OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONS HELD AT PRESENT

Occupations	No. Engaged
Cooks	34
Farmers	14
Laundrymen	14
Janitors	12
Hair dressers	7
Mechanics	7
Chauffeurs	5
Clerks	5
Dairymen	1
Paper boys	1
Nurses	1
Insurance	1
<hr/>	
Total	102

Considering the wages earned by the one hundred and two graduates who have present employment, I find twenty-three earned from twenty to twenty-four dollars per month.

Viewing the table, one can also see that only one person out of the one hundred and two employed got as low as four dollars per month.

TABLE XI. shows the wage level of the present employed graduates.

TABLE XI.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING TO
MONTHLY WAGE AT PRESENT

Range of Wages ..	No. of Graduates
0-4	1
5-9	0
10-14	17
15-19	16
20-24	23
25-29	6
30-34	5
35-39	2

TABLE XI. (continued)

Range of Wages	No. of Graduates
40-44	3
45-49	3
50-54	3

There were many graduates who changed jobs within the course of four years.

TABLE XII. shows very definitely how many changed jobs and the number of times changed.

TABLE XII

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING TO THE
NUMBER OF TIMES CHANGED JOBS

Times changed	No. changed
Not working	55
0	59
1	25
2	14
3	2
4	<u>2</u>
Total	137

It will be noted that the greatest number of the changes made were on account of the desire for more pay.

TABLE NO. XIII. gives a list of reasons for such changes.

TABLE NO. XIII.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING
TO REASONS GIVEN FOR CHANGING JOBS

Reasons	No. Stating
More money	25
Jobs expired	19
People left town	14
Persons returned	10
Illness	14
Better conditions	10
Went to school	2
Prejudice	1

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES ACCORDING TO REASONS GIVEN FOR CHANGING JOBS

Type	No. of Graduates
Not listed	137
Male	4
W. E. B.	1
Librarian	1
Office work	1
Total	137

THE INFLUENCE OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN,
TEXAS, UPON ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-
SEVEN GRADUATES

The survey shows that the school exerted very little influence upon the graduates by the way of aiding them in getting jobs since graduation. One hundred and twenty-eight stated that the school had not aided them in securing employment since their graduation.

TABLE NO. XIV. shows the jobs which Kemp High School aided nine of its graduates secure.

TABLE XIV.

DISTRIBUTION OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES ACCORDING TO AID GIVEN BY KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEXAS, IN JOB SECURING

Types .	No. of Graduates
Not aided	128
Maid	6
N. Y. A.	1
Librarian	1
Office work	<u>1</u>
Total	137

TABLE XV lists the subjects taken by students in high school which have been of most value to them.

TABLE XV.

DISTRIBUTION OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES ACCORDING TO SCHOOL COURSES OF VALUE IN JOBS HELD

Courses	No. of Graduates
None	44
English	27
Mathematics	25
Chemistry	14
Domestic Science	11
History	11
Writing	5

Of the one hundred two graduates employed only thirty-three state that their wages are effected by experience while sixty-nine state that their wages are not affected by experience.

There was a large number of graduates who stated that none of the subjects that they had taken had aided

them in jobs held.

The cases go to prove their assertions are as follows: a boy who had been working as a clerk in a grocery store received before he finished \$20.00 per month, but since he has graduated he still has the same job but he only received \$16.00 per month; another case was where a girl had been working as an assistant secretary; she received before graduation \$18.00 per month, but now she only gets \$15.00 per month.

Twenty-seven of the graduates state that English had been of more value than any other subject with mathematics coming next, with twenty-five.

THE INFLUENCE OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX
GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL,
BRYAN, TEXAS, UPON THE
COMMUNITY

There are a great many of the graduates who exert much influence upon their community, either through

the church, lodge, social clubs, or others. TABLE NO. XVI. shows the extent of community activity by graduates.

TABLE XVI.

DISTRIBUTION OF 137 GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THEY ENGAGE

Activities	No.
Church	120
Lodge	9
Social Clubs	5
Others	3

One hundred twenty graduates state that they are active members and hold important positions in the church and Sunday school.

In consulting TABLE NO. XVII., one will note the positions held in the community organizations by 137 graduates of which they were members.

TABLE XVII.

DISTRIBUTION OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES OF KEMP HIGH SCHOOL, BRYAN, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO POSITIONS HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THEY BELONGED

Positions	No.
Church treasurers	4
Sunday School Teachers	3
Secretaries of church	2
Painist	2
Union leaders	1
Sunday school superintendents	1
Church soloists	1
Junior director of Lodges	1
Chaplains of clubs	1
Business managers of clubs	1
Secretaries of clubs.....	1

Out of the one hundred twenty who were active members of the church only fourteen held positions and out of the seventeen affiliated with lodges, and social clubs, only four held positions. From such figures one can readily see that very few graduates

become leaders in their communities to the extent that they hold some position in the community of which they are a part.

***** * *****

4. Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates of Kent High School, Hayes Town, there were one hundred and eleven who did not own any other property; five owned lots; two owned grocery stores, and three own filling stations.

5. Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates, interviewed, six had five sisters and five had four. The majority of those who had sisters had two or one in the family; to be exact, thirty-one had one and twenty-one had two. Of those who had brothers, only thirty-four had one and only one had five or more.

6. Out of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates fourteen had been married one year; two had been

CHAPTER III.
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Of the one hundred twenty-seven graduates interviewed, we noticed that the largest number are between the ages of eighteen and twenty; to be more definite, twenty-six were eighteen years of age; twenty-seven were nineteen years of age, and thirty-one were twenty years of age.

2. Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates of Kemp High School, Bryan Texas, there were one hundred and eleven who did not own any other property; five owned lots; two owned grocery stores, and three own filling stations.

3. Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates, interviewed, six had five sisters and five had four. The majority of those who had sisters had two or one in the family; to be exact, thirty-six had two and twenty-six had one. Of those who had brothers, only thirty-five had one and only one had high as seven.

4. Out of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates fourteen had been married one year; four had been

married under six months, and one had been married four years.

5. We find that out of the one hundred thirty-seven interviewed, ninety-nine did not attend college, and eighty-eight of the ninety-nine didn't go because of insufficient funds. Only two stated that they did not care to go.

6. Out of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates interviewed, nineteen worked as maids before graduation and fourteen were yard boys.

7. Of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates, only sixty-nine worked prior to graduation, and of this sixty-nine, twenty-four received from ten to fourteen dollars per month; while only one received as high as thirty-nine dollars per month.

8. Out of the number who worked prior to graduation, seventy-one were over six months getting work to do, and only two got employment under six months.

9. Out of the number employed at present, twenty-three are getting between twenty and twenty-four dollars per month and only three get from fifty to fifty-four dollars per month.

10. Of the number who worked we find that twenty-five changed because they desired more pay, and nineteen changed because the jobs expired.

11. The interviews have shown that the school has done very little in aiding its graduates in securing jobs. Only nine of the graduates were aided by Kemp High School.

12. English was the course that the majority of the graduates agreed was of the most value to them in jobs held. Twenty-seven made the assertion. Twenty-five stated that mathematics was of the most value in jobs held.

Although there are other reasons we must agree that lack of funds is a factor.

We also find that forty-four attended college at one time; although many had to drop out later on account of financial conditions, which goes to show that they are anxious to go to college but other conditions will not permit. Another reason why the graduates do not ever get to college is because the majority are unable to secure work after they finish. The tables show that fourteen of the forty

CONCLUSION

Summarizing this survey material we find that out of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates of Kemp High School, Bryan, Texas, only sixteen of that number had parents who owned their homes and one hundred-eleven had parents who did not own their homes. From that data alone one could draw the conclusion that the majority of the graduates do not go to college, because their parents are not financially able to assist them.

Although there are other reasons we must agree that lack of finance is the leading cause.

We also find that forty-four attended college at one time; although many had to drop out later on account of financial conditions, which goes to show that they are anxious to go to college but other conditions will not permit. Another reason why the graduates do not ever get to college is because the majority are unable to secure work after they finish. The tables show that fourteen of the forty

six who obtained jobs did not secure them until the expiration of one year. Further, after they get the jobs the wages are so low that they can hardly make enough to live on, besides saving enough to attend college.

Another finding that was very impressive as well as pathetic was the number of jobs that the school actually aided the graduates in getting; statistics show that one hundred and twenty-eight of the one hundred thirty-seven graduates were not aided by the school in obtaining jobs. That goes to show that something is wrong with the school curriculum; the subjects that are being taught are not fitting for life's situations; they are not being prepared to take a place of leadership in their community. The subjects taught are not enabling them to get more pay on their various jobs; evidently the subjects that are taught just prepare the graduate for college, and he never gets there because he hasn't enough of the right type of training to get jobs and demand enough money to get to college.

Therefore I concluded that if the students can not have the choice of taking the subjects which will aid him in making a living after he has finished high school, instead of making the student take a lot of useless subjects which will only aid him in college. Hundreds of ambitious boys and girls are going to be complete failures in life. To sum up the whole situation, the curriculum in some of the high schools are defeating their own purposes.

 **